

Humane Rescue Alliance Community Cat Programs Tip Sheet

How to Keep Cats off Your Porch and Out of Your Yard



Not everyone wants cats in their garden or sleeping on their outdoor furniture. While cats are part of the community, everyone has boundaries that need to be respected. You don't sack out on your neighbor's lawn chair uninvited, do you? And if you dig up their freshly planted seedlings you probably aren't going to be invited to dinner any time soon.

Residents can take some actions to keep uninvited guests away, just as one does to deter thieves. Here is a list of products and techniques that have proven useful. Each situation and landscape is a bit different, so you may need to try a variety of approaches to find the combination that works best with the cats you are trying to keep away.

Caregiver Tip: Make an Outdoor Litter Box

If you care for community cats who are unwelcome in a neighbor's yard, you can help by creating a litter box on your property. This can be as easy as tilling a spot in your yard or setting out a large shallow plastic container. Fill it with play sand. Cats are naturally attracted to the texture. Scoop regularly and about once a month dump and replace the sand entirely.

Motion activated sprinklers use a startling but



harmless burst of water to scare off cats that enter the device's territory. Designed to scare a cat, not soak him, these devices are good for yards or gardens.

The Scarecrow, made by Contech, Requires a hose and 9-volt battery. It costs about \$50 [online](#).

Other motion-activated devices, such as the **CatStop**, emit a high-frequency sound that is imperceptible to humans, but startles and annoys cat. **CatStop** reportedly monitors 280 square feet. Use multiple devices to cover a larger area. Place them high up to deter cats from climbing on cars. Each **CatStop** costs about \$50 [online](#). Or order directly from Contech at 1-800-767-8658

Keep cats off fences or walls by fitting **taut wire** or string about 4 inches above fence tops. Cover flat surfaces with **plastic carpet runner** placed spike-side up. This also works on porch chairs or other spots you'd rather not have sleeping kitties.

To prevent cats from digging in your garden, place



chicken wire or **Cat Scat**, a plastic mesh mat with small plastic spikes, just under the soil. **Cat Scat** (\$21.95/5 mats) is available from [Gardener's Supply](#) online or 1-888-833-1412. You can also bury chicken wire in the

garden to make digging unpleasant.

You can also use **natural materials** to deter digging: cover exposed ground with rough surfaced rocks, pinecones, or thorny twigs. Or try laying lattice fencing on the ground prior to planting and then plant flowers and seeds in the openings.

Safely sprinkle **scent repellants** anywhere needed. Try orange and lemon peels or juice, dried rue, cayenne pepper, coffee grounds, pipe tobacco, lavender oil, lemon grass oil, citronella oil, peppermint oil, eucalyptus oil or mustard oil.

Community Cats live outside with no specific home or owner

Learn more about how you can help them at

humanerescuealliance.org/catnipp or contact 202-608-1358 or catnipp@humanerescuealliance.org



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